

REMARKS

Claims 1-27 are pending in this application.

Claims 1-27 are rejected.

Claims 13, 14, 19, and 24 are objected to.

Claim 28 (new) has been added to the application.

1. To amend purported informalities under 35 U.S.C. 112 second paragraph by the Examiner, Claims have been amended, in particular, a) to remove the phrase "adapted to" in claims, b) to state what is being supported by the supporting (base) member in step "a", and c) to remove the phrase "a said" in steps "b", "c", and "d" of claims said to be confusing to a reader as to the number of support members present in the probe. Applicant requests the Examiner's rejection of claims under 35 U.S.C. 112 second paragraph be removed.

2-3). Claims 1-4, 5-8, 9-12, 15-18, 20-23, and 25-27 have been cancelled. Applicant's cancellation of these claims is neither intended to be, nor should be interpreted as, an admission or commentary on the merits of basis for the Examiner's rejections either under 35 U.S.C. 102 and/or 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as stated in the Office Action. Applicant respectfully submits that this action renders the Examiner's stated rejections moot and requests timely movement toward allowance of the application in view of the cancelled claims.

4. As invited by the Examiner, Claims 13, 14, 19, and 24 have been rewritten in independent form, including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Claims as originally drafted claims, including associated dependent claims, and teachings of the specification, e.g., paragraphs [0007] and [0013], provide support for these amendments. Thus, no new matter has been introduced by way of the claim amendments. Applicant respectfully requests removal of the Examiner's objection and allowance of Claims 13, 14, 19, and 24 as currently amended.

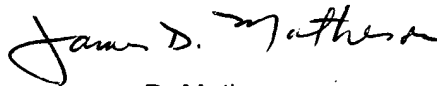
5. Applicant acknowledges the obligation under 37 CFR 1.56 to point out the inventor and invention dates of each claim that was not commonly owned at the time a later invention was made in order for the Examiner to consider the applicability of 35 U.S.C. 103 (c) and potential 35 U.S.C. 102(e), (f), or (g) prior art under 35 U.S.C. 103(a). Applicant asserts that the subject matter of the claims was commonly owned at the time any inventions covered therein were made.

Independent Claim 28 (new) has been added to the application. Support for the new claim is provided, e.g., by paragraphs [0007], [0013], [0042] and [0048] of the specification. Thus, no new matter has been introduced by addition of the claim.

CLOSURE

Applicant has made an earnest attempt to respond in a proper and timely manner to the Examiner's requested actions in this case. Applicant respectfully requests that prompt movement toward Allowance be made in this case.

Respectfully submitted,



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